United Nations A/AC.105/C.2/113

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 January 2018

Original: English/Spanish

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-seventh session
Vienna, 9–20 April 2018
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

Note by the Secretariat

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Replies received from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	2
	Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation	2
	International Law Association	4
	Intersputnik International Organization of Space Communications	9

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.303

V.18-00314 (E) 020218 050218

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. The present document was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

II. Replies received from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation

[Original: Spanish]
[15 January 2018]

The Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, based in Madrid, has had permanent observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space since 2012, and has been reporting annually to the Legal Subcommittee since that time. The current President of the Institute is Santiago Ripol Carulla, and the Secretary-General is Barsen García-López Hernández. The Director of the Institute's Research Centre is Elisa González Ferreiro. The present report provides a summary of the activities undertaken in the area of space law in Spain, Portugal and Latin America in 2017.

The publication entitled "The legal regime applicable to the Moon: proposal for a lunar observatory", which contains the presentations given during the course entitled "The Moon: from laboratories to towns", held in El Escorial, Spain in August 2016, was mentioned in the Institute's report to the Subcommittee in 2017. That publication was one of the most important outcomes of the course, which was the product of joint efforts by the Complutense University of Madrid and the Institute. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, the publication focuses on analysing the legal regime applicable to the Moon in the light of current international law on the basis of legal theory and case law.

Experts in the legal sciences participated in that event, as well as specialists from other scientific areas, including experts from the European Space Agency, the University of Heidelberg, the Spanish Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology, and Engineering Systems for the Defence of Spain, as an example of international scientific cooperation. The highly creative proposal involved the use of a small lunar telescope to observe the Earth and its interaction with space.

On the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty, our Institute, together with staff of the European Space Agency in Madrid, held an event at the Madrid Bar Association on 1 June 2017, entitled "The fiftieth anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty: liability for damage caused by space objects and contracts for space activities". Thus, the Institute continued to support the United Nations and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the preparations to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It subsequently reiterated that support, in September 2017, at the Ibero-American Conference held in Santiago, as described below.

In the context of Latin America, the Inter-university Conference on Aeronautic and Space Law of the University of Salvador was held in Buenos Aires on 1 and 2 June 2017, sponsored by various academic institutions, including our Institute.

A long-standing tradition of the Institute continued to grow in 2017, namely the Ibero-American Conference on Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, one of the sessions of which is dedicated exclusively to space law. At the sixty-fourth Ibero-American Conference, held in Santiago from 25 to 28 September 2017, a review

and update on the theme of "space law on the eve of UNISPACE+50, Vienna 2018" was presented.

In the conclusions adopted at the conference held in Chile, emphasis was placed on the need to create strategic partnerships to facilitate cooperation in the study of space-related topics, and the importance of the contribution made by women in the various bodies working on the development of space law was also recognized.

Furthermore, an analysis has been conducted of the thematic priorities to be included in the agenda of UNISPACE+50, which is scheduled to take place in June 2018 to mark 50 years since the first United Nations conference in 1968.

At the conference in Chile, there was a great deal of support for the idea that the common denominator at those meetings should be the recognition of UNISPACE+50 as a unique moment in the development of space activity to assess the contribution of the Committee to issues of global governance.

In conclusion, the conference in Santiago placed special emphasis on issues of space security and environmental security, which are of growing concern to the international community. That conclusion was expressed as follows:

> Taking into account that among the thematic priorities, space security and cybersecurity should be considered in their real dimensions, and that satellites and their control stations are particularly vulnerable to cyberattacks, and also taking into account the need to identify mechanisms to propose innovative initiatives around the world, especially in developing countries and non-governmental organizations working in the area of space activity, and to raise awareness of new topics and their progress, there is a need to incentivize training and create awareness of technological progress, space policies and cybernetics policies applicable to space, with environmental security as a common denominator.

At the conference, full support was expressed for addressing the tasks, responsibilities and challenges dominating today's international arena with regard to international and space law, and the recommendation was made to lend particular support to the objectives of UNISPACE+50 and to assist the United Nations in achieving them.

Conference participants expressed their satisfaction with the efforts made by the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications of Chile to adopt its own space policy.

The Institute has also participated as a partner, alongside the European Space Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America, in the "Science week" held in Cádiz, Spain, in November 2017. The event was organized by the regional government of Andalusia, the Portuense Astronomic and Rota Astronautical Group and the Committee for the Promotion of Science and Space (CODICE), and in 2017 was dedicated to the "space race".

On 27 November 2017, the Ibero-American Institute held at its headquarters the fifth Seminar on Space Activities and Law, focusing on the legal and technical aspects of space mining, with particular emphasis on the exploitation of the resources of celestial bodies in accordance with the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and the Moon Agreement of 1979, United States legislation on space mining and the European experience in this area (Luxembourg and the Hague Space Resources Governance Working Group, and the International Law Association and its continued participation in the Action Team on Exploration and Innovation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2017). At the Seminar, the controversial issue of near-Earth space resources was also discussed from the perspectives of geology, mining and ethics.

International Law Association

[Original: English]
[16 January 2018]

A. Background

The International Law Association (ILA) was founded in Brussels in 1873, and its headquarters are currently in London. Its objectives are the study, clarification and development of international law, both public and private, and comparative law. Over the years, ILA has been known for its policy of openness and outreach as regards membership and choice of topics to be addressed. ILA has been a permanent observer of the Committee since 1990 and reports annually thereto.

The chair of the ILA Executive Council is Lord Mance, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Professor Hennie Strydom (South African branch) is the current World President, and Professor Marcel Brus (Netherlands branch) is the Director of Studies. The officers of the Space Law Committee are Professor Stephan Hobe (General Rapporteur, German branch) and Professor Maureen Williams[1] (Committee Chair, headquarters). Both officers are on the Executive Council of ILA.

The work of ILA in pursuance of its objectives is carried out by international committees and study groups responsible for the study and progressive development of the different fields of international law. The Space Law Committee was created in 1958, shortly after Sputnik 1 was launched into outer space, and is normally called upon to face most challenging topics dominating the international agendas of the moment. The focal point of the activities of the international committees is the biennial world conferences where work is analysed and results discussed with a view to their endorsement by the respective Conference.

The latest ILA world Conference was held in Johannesburg on 7–11 August 2016. The general theme selected was "International law and State practice: is there a North-South divide?" The forthcoming Conference will be held in Sydney on 19–24 August 2018 and the following Conference will take place in Kyoto, Japan in 2020.

A recent initiative of ILA is the setting-up of a scholarship fund to enable young scholars to attend the regional and biennial conferences, and at the 2016 Johannesburg Conference, 11 candidates, chosen from around the world, took part. The initiative was followed up by the ILA Netherlands branch, where nine more scholarships were awarded to younger candidates from regions with less representation. The scholarship system will also apply to the forthcoming Sydney Conference.

B. Activities of the ILA Space Law Committee during 2017

A traditional practice of the ILA Space Law Committee is focusing on space technologies, their most recent developments and impact on international law, leading to, in turn, the progressive development of the law of outer space. Topics may also include those under the scope of other ILA international committees, such as the Committee on International Law and Sea Level Rise, where first generation technologies are of the utmost importance. We therefore share similar problems and the quest for realistic solutions. Another valid example today is the role of non-State actors and their responsibilities in contemporary international law — a topic closely linked to space security and cybersecurity.

[1] The present report was prepared by the ILA Committee Chair, Professor Maureen Williams. The full text of the ILA report on the Johannesburg Conference (2016) and the proceedings of its working session is available on the ILA website (http://www.ila-hq.org).

Similarly, the ILA Committee liaises with intergovernmental institutions dealing with different aspects of international law. Such is the case with, among others, the liaison with the International Law Commission on matters of responsibility and effective control of international organizations, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), where the Committee officers and a number of its members have been appointed "specialized arbitrators", the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), with which ILA holds frequent meetings to view common problems (suborbital flights, for instance) and, naturally, with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and both its Subcommittees.

Throughout 2017, the ILA Committee took part in the activities of the United Nations Action Team on Exploration and Innovation, and its Committee Chair contributed suggestions and written proposals during the drafting of the document entitled "Thematic priority 1. Global partnership in space exploration and innovation" (A/AC.105/C.1/114).[2]

The Committee officers and its members are permanently in touch with the various national space agencies of the developing and industrialized world, as well as universities, research centres and others. At the private level, a number of Committee members participate regularly in the activities of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), and some Committee members are also part of the Board. At the regional level, there is close cooperation with the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation (with its headquarters in Madrid, and which is a permanent observer of the Committee since 2012) and the European Centre for Space Law.

Most of the Committee members teach international law/space law at public and private universities and other research centres around the world. The results are extremely encouraging, particularly at the postgraduate and doctoral thesis level. They help capacity-building and to create awareness on the present state of the law and also reveal a choice of topics inspired on the agendas of intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations.

C. The four central topics of the ILA Space Law Committee report

The work of the ILA Space Law Committee during 2017 was mainly dedicated to its third report addressing four central topics and two specific questions — pursuant to its current mandate (2016–2020) — which were seen as new developments calling for urgent consideration, as follows:

(a) The settlement of disputes;

(b) Suborbital flight and its legal aspects;

(c) The use of satellite data: new applications, new risks and new threats. Security in space, cybersecurity and international law;

(d) Space debris in today's new settings;

(e) Specific questions on space security and cyberlaw and the legal nature of natural resources from space and within space areas and mining activities on the Moon and celestial bodies.

1. The settlement of disputes

The task of the ILA Committee during 2017 was to continue exploring the effectiveness of the PCA Optional Rules for Arbitration of Disputes relating to Outer Space Activities (the "PCA Outer Space Rules") in different landscapes and create awareness on their existence and advantages. Reference is made to our second report

[2] This cooperation was duly acknowledged in A/AC.105/C.1/114, para. 71.

on these topics adopted at the 2016 Johannesburg Conference[3] and to the ILA report to the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session in 2017 (see A/AC.105/C.2/110).

Air and Space Evidence, founded in 2014 and with headquarters in Swindon, United Kingdom, offers investigatory services to clients, providing Earth observation imagery from satellites, drones and aircraft which can be used as evidence in dispute settlement procedures. Through its new satellite detection device, "Waste from Space", an innovative product designed by Ray Purdy, a member of the ILA Space Law Committee, the company helps Governments to identify unlawful waste landfill sites, thus enabling Governments to quickly apprehend the criminals responsible.

2. Suborbital flight and its legal aspects

The topic of suborbital flight and its legal aspects was introduced by the Rapporteur of the ILA Committee to the 2014 Washington Conference in a first report, with initial questions explained and discussed from a legal perspective, and was further developed in a second report at the 2016 Johannesburg Conference. A conference room paper entitled "Replies from the Chair of the Space Law Committee of ILA to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on certain legal aspects of suborbital flights" (A/AC.105/C.2/2016/CRP.10), submitted to the Legal Subcommitee at its fifty-fifth session, described further details of the work by the ILA Committee that returns to the roots of both air and space law. Hence the idea of liaising with ICAO, as the two entities (the ILA Committee and ICAO) have some common points to share, although the ICAO definition (a flight up to a very high altitude without sending the vehicle into orbit) has received only timid support. Suborbital flights are raising challenging legal problems for the international lawyer.

No legally binding definition, or description, of suborbital flight has so far been accepted or written into a legally binding instrument, whether national or international. Moreover, some ILA Committee members have instead suggested switching to the term "non-orbital" flights. In 2017, the outstanding legal issues were looked into more deeply by ILA, with a view to formulating a possible set of guidelines for a model law on this matter, as it did in the past with space debris, dispute settlement and national space legislation, among other topics.

3. The use of satellite data: new applications and risks. Security in space, cybersecurity and international law

The ILA Committee believes that questions underlying space security, cybersecurity and new space and cyberspace policies will no doubt trigger a myriad of political discussions and controversy. Although at times minimized, it is an area of challenges and threats of utmost importance. Today's global security threat and the unique characteristics of what is currently known as the "new war" require a profound analysis from different standpoints in search of solid courses of action.

(a) Security in space, cybersecurity and international law

Security in space and cybersecurity are threatened by developing and the possible misuse of the latest generation technologies. Study groups are being set up within the framework of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House London, International Security Department), IISL and ILA, among others. The initial question, originally raised by IISL, is whether cyberlaw can be considered an entirely new chapter of international law and whether, as such, it represents a self-contained regime.

A wide range of definitions and descriptions have been proposed, coming from very different angles, in an effort to explain what should be understood by the term "cyberspace". When it comes to choosing, it is no easy task. Yet, in this framework,

[3] *Report of the Seventy-seventh Conference of the International Law Association* (Johannesburg, 2016). In book format (117–254), see pp. 119–121, and on the ILA website.

a scientific description appears the best option, descriptions being non-exhaustive and flexible, in contrast to the confining nature of definitions.

A general approach to this question concurs on the need to draw a clear line between the Internet and cyberspace. While the Internet has a physical dimension, cyberspace has not. The latter is a non-physical element. Some authors point out the recent trend of considering the terms "Internet" and "cyberspace" synonymous since they both refer to the domain, as well as the medium, for certain activities.[4] However, this is debatable and opens the door to misinterpretations. Land, water and air are physical elements that can be measured, whereas the non-physical characteristic of cyberspace is beyond question. This is indisputable.

Nevertheless, and following the example of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), it seems consistent to refer to cyberspace as "the global domain within the information environment consisting of the interdependent network of information technology infrastructure, including the Internet, telecommunication networks, computer systems and embedded processors and controllers".[5]

Be that as it may, the essence of the initial question entails establishing whether cyberlaw forms part, or not, of international law proper. In the first place, it should be noted that harm or damage arising from the use of cybertechnology makes whoever caused it responsible for compensation to the extent of a *restitutio in integrum*. At least theoretically, it is crystal clear that this general principle of law is applicable.

In a way remindful of the early stages of space law when the United Nations was immersed in the drafting of the treaties on outer space now in force, cyberlaw should be seen today as one of the youngest branches of international law, departing dramatically from the traditional rules of international law applicable on Earth. Therefore, as a starting point, it appears sensible to hold that international law is, in fact, applicable to cyberspace. If adapted and adjusted to become applicable to this new incommensurable scenario, international law may transform into *lex specialis*, as held by part of the doctrine. As in the case of space law, this new branch of international law — cyberlaw — is highly influenced by the advances of science and technology which, in turn, are introducing significant changes in the field of classical international law and in the conducting of international relations today.

The idea that international law is applicable to cyberspace is gradually gaining ground. In 2013, the Group of Governmental Experts on International Security, convened under the auspices of the United Nations, stated that international law, United Nations principles and the Charter of the United Nations applied, mutatis mutandis, to States carrying out activities in non-physical cyberspace and that, at times, international law would have to undergo adaptations in order to become consistent with the uniqueness of cyberspace. Consequently, for reasons of consistency, new law (*lex specialis*) shall be needed.

(b) Courses of action

To sum up, it is recommended that space security and cybersecurity policies be jointly designed within the United Nations framework, given the high level of dependency of both space and cyberspace-related areas on latest generation technologies. Suggested topics for study are as follows: cybernetic attacks aiming at the remote control of a satellite, jamming and spoofing, policy solutions, cybernetic attacks on satellites in orbit in order to cause orbit decay or collision, regional perspectives, and the responsibility of non-State actors for harmful cyberspace activities. The experience of ITU on the governmental front, and that of the Royal Institute of

[4] See, inter alia, Constantine Antonopoulus, "State responsibility in cyberspace", in *Research Handbook on International Law and Cyberspace*, Nicholas Tsagourias and Russell Buchan, eds (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2015), pp. 55–71.

[5] See, in reference to ITU, M. Schmitt, "Introduction", in *Research Handbook on International Law and Cyberspace*, p. 1, note 1.

International Affairs in the private field, will no doubt be of assistance for further in-depth research on these challenging questions.

Finally, it is suggested that cyberlaw be added as a new topic on space law and international law syllabuses. This is already done by some of us with encouraging results, particularly at the doctoral level.

4. Space debris in today's new settings

The topic of space debris in today's new settings has been under permanent review by the ILA Space Law Committee since the adoption at its sixty-sixth conference in Buenos Aires (1994) of the International Instrument on the Protection of the Environment from Damage Caused by Space Debris. The Space Law Committee revises it prior to the biennial conferences to check its consistency with the current international and regional settings and include views from both international space lawyers and the scientific world. The answers received so far affirm that it is consistent.

The ILA Committee notes that, as far as the effectiveness of the 2007 Guidelines on Space Debris Mitigation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, results are encouraging. Moreover, the dutiful effort of States to inform the Office of any developments or national measures by their countries for the mitigation of space debris is producing useful results.

We therefore continue to draw attention to further developments in the field, especially State practice, and continue to study the possibilities of space debris removal within the framework of international law. This is no easy challenge. The ILA Committee strongly favours closer cooperation between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee on these topics for which international cooperation and interdisciplinary approaches have an essential part to play.

The ILA Committee is very grateful to the Office for its assistance in meeting these objectives.

5. Specific questions added to the current ILA mandate

Two specific questions have entered the terms of reference of the ILA Committee since 2016, as it considered them important and urgent and in need of immediate analysis: namely issues surrounding security in space, cybersecurity and cyberlaw (see section C.3 and its subsections, above) and the yet unresolved question of the legal nature of space natural resources and space mining activity in those areas.

Legal nature of natural resources from space and space mining activities

At the seventy-seventh ILA Conference (Johannesburg, 2016), the legal aspects of natural resources from space and current controversy on space mining activities were thoroughly examined in the light of State practice and national space legislation. The topic was introduced at the Johannesburg working session by both the Chair and Rapporteur of the Committee in introductory reports and Committee member Mahulena Hofmann made a special presentation on Luxembourg's position on space mining. After lengthy analysis, some general conclusions were reached, namely the need for further discussion of State practice and the reactions thereto in different circles and also the possibility of some general guidelines to prevent certain issues from escalating to unmanageable levels. The full working session debates are published in the report of the seventy-seventh Conference of ILA, available in book format and online.

Presently, it is rather discouraging for the international community to find itself so sharply divided on questions of this magnitude. This was clearly perceived in 2017, at the fifty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee, in the tenor of both interventions and reactions.

For these reasons, we believe the suggested code of conduct, if merely of a recommendatory nature, would pave the way for clearer settings and help minimize misunderstandings.

The ILA Space Law Committee remains, as always, open to future dialogues on this matter and in any other field relating to international law and outer space activities.

Intersputnik International Organization of Space Communications

[Original: English]
[27 December 2018]

A. Background information

Founded on 15 November 1971 under the Agreement on the Establishment of the Intersputnik International System and Organization of Space Communications, the International Organization of Space Communications (Intersputnik) is an international intergovernmental organization with headquarters in Moscow. Intersputnik's mission is to ensure cooperation and coordination of efforts in the design, establishment, operation and development of the international communications system via satellites. Today, Intersputnik has 26 member States[6] and 24 signatories.[7]

Intersputnik has a three-level management structure consisting of the Board, the Operations Committee and the Directorate. The Board is Intersputnik's highest management body that is open to all member States. At its annual sessions, the Board makes decisions on Intersputnik's long-term goals and general policy. The Operations Committee is made up of signatories and is responsible for consideration of current business issues, specifically those concerning operation of the Intersputnik international system of satellite communications and fiscal policy. Meetings of the Operations Committee are held twice a year. Headed by the Director General, the Directorate is Intersputnik's executive and administrative body, which deals with the day-to-day activity and carries out resolutions of the Board and the Operations Committee.

B. Summary of activities in 2017

Since 1985, when Intersputnik was granted permanent observer status, it has been constantly participating in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees. In March 2017, Intersputnik participated in the

[6] Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Yemen

[7] Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Afghanistan, Republican Unitary Telecommunication Enterprise Beltelecom (Belarus), Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of Bulgaria, Bulgarian Telecommunications Company EAD, National Media and Infocommunications Authority (Hungary), Viet Nam Posts and Telecommunications Group, Romantis and FidusCrypt (Germany), Department of Space of India, Department of Telecommunications of India, State Committee on Information Technology and Communications of Kyrgyzstan, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cuba Telecommunications Company (ETECSA), Communications and Information Technology Authority of Mongolia, Orange Polska (Poland), Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Russian Satellite Communications Company", National Radiocommunications Company (Romania), Syrian Telecommunication Establishment (Syrian Arab Republic), SOMASAT 3 and SOMSAT (Somalia), Communications Service under the Government of Tajikistan, Ukrkosmos State Company (Ukraine), and Ministry of Industry and Trade of Czechia

fifty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee and delivered a report on its activities relating to space law. At the United Nations/Russian Federation Workshop on Human Capacity-building in Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Social and Economic Development, jointly organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Samara National Research University, Intersputnik reported on its contributions in that field.

Due to the nature of its core activity, Intersputnik has always paid considerable attention to that important aspect of space law, the legal framework of the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits, which is closely linked to telecommunications law. Intersputnik, as a member of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, takes part in the activities of its bodies. In May and October 2017, Intersputnik experts attended the meetings of Working Party 4A, the major study area of which is efficient spectrum and orbit utilization.

When cooperating with its member States, Intersputnik frequently has to deal with space law and related aspects of telecommunications law. In June 2017, during a regular meeting of its governing bodies, Intersputnik arranged the annual seminar on the development of national satellite telecommunications (NATSATTEL-2017). The seminar was aimed at exchanging information and practical experience between States members of Intersputnik.

At the regional level, similar and other aspects of satellite telecommunications are discussed within the framework of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC), in which Intersputnik has observer status. Intersputnik has contributed much to the activities of the working bodies of the Commonwealth, including those on radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits, information society development and international cooperation coordination, and the Expert Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly (IPA CIS-RCC).

Since 2015, Intersputnik has been a member of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and participates in its major events. In March 2017, Intersputnik attended the IAF spring meetings. In September 2017, Intersputnik took part in the 68th International Astronautical Congress co-organized by IAF, the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and the International Institute of Space Law (IISL). In the course of the Congress, Intersputnik experts contributed to the work of the IAF General Assembly, the IAA Academic Day, the 60th IISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space, and the judging of the world semi-final of the IISL Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition.

In April 2017, Intersputnik participated in the annual Blischenko Congress organized by the People's Friendship University of Russia and dedicated to topical issues of international law. In memory of the outstanding Soviet and Russian space law scholar Professor Zhukov and with organizational support from Intersputnik, the Congress established a special group for international space law in which Intersputnik's expert delivered a presentation on legal issues concerning the registration of certain types of space objects.

In December 2017, Intersputnik took part in the round-table discussion at the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law under the Government of the Russian Federation devoted to the sixtieth anniversary of the launch of Sputnik, the first Earth satellite, and the fiftieth anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty. Intersputnik's expert delivered a presentation on the protection of human heritage in outer space.

To make space law popular with the young generation of lawyers and train new specialists in this field, Intersputnik is closely cooperating with Russian universities. Such cooperation allows students to undertake an internship at Intersputnik, thereby gaining useful knowledge and practical experience in the field of international space law. In 2017, several students from different Russian universities held internships in Intersputnik's International Legal Service.

C. Publications

In May 2017, Intersputnik co-organized a special issue of the Russian scientific and technical journal *Electrosvyaz* dedicated to international space law. The special issue includes interviews and opinions of numerous experts, as well as articles on topical aspects of space and telecommunications law, such as the regulation of non-geostationary satellite systems and the importance of international space law in preventing natural disasters.

As a part of the cooperation with universities, Intersputnik participates in preparing textbooks on different aspects of public international law, and space law in particular. In December 2017, a learning guide on the law of international organizations prepared with the assistance of Intersputnik's experts was published by the People's Friendship University of Russia.

Intersputnik Today, Intersputnik's newsletter issued twice a year, features articles on recent events of Intersputnik and its member States. The latest newsletter published in December 2017, is available online at www.intersputnik.com.

D. Plans for 2018

Intersputnik intends to continue its work in the field of space law in 2018, specifically to contribute to its application and development at the international, regional and national levels.